

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chairman), Fuller, Johnson, Shapiro and Harney

Absent: Ald. Swiston, Freedman and Yates

Also Present: Ald. Blazar, Crossley, Danberg, Lappin, Baker, Albright, Lennon, Linsky and Gentile

City Staff: Chief Matthew Cummings and Lt. Hugh Downing (Newton Police Department) and Maureen Lemieux (Chief Financial Officer)

**Police Department Budget  
CIP**

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#376-09 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY11-15 Capital Improvement Program, totaling \$140,377,285 and the FY10 Supplemental Capital budget, which require Board of Aldermen approval to finance new capital projects over the next five years.

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#121-10 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter, submitting the FY'11 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$340,073,328, passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY'11- FY'15 Capital Improvement Program.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION: 04/20/10; LAST DATE TO PASS BUDGET 06/4/10**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**ACTION: HELD 4-0 (Ald. Johnson not voting)**

**NOTE:** Chief Cummings and Lt. Downing joined the Committee for discussion on this item. and discussed their FY11 Budget Summary and Chief Cummings opening remarks, attached to this report.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL & STAFFING:**

- Assigned Youth Officer representation to the City Anti-Bullying Task Force, which is comprised of school administrators, principals, students and parents.
- Re-instituted, the full-time Elder Affairs officer position in the Community Services Bureau to enhance senior services.
- Transitioned the Domestic Violence officer position to full-time status.
- Created a full-time Commander of Special Operations position responsible directly to the

Chief of Police for the development, review and evaluation of procedures and programs necessary to ensure efficient and effective delivery of police services to the citizens. The Commander will liaison with community groups, elected officials, members of the public, and we be further responsible for internal liaison and coordination among functional elements.

- Assumed overall citywide emergency management responsibilities with the transfer to the department of the part-time Emergency Management Director position.
- Re-staffed the regional Suburban Middlesex County Drug Task Force to its original compliment of one full-time Drug Task Force sergeant and two full-time Drug Task Force officers.
- Obtained Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) grant funds to hire two additional full-time emergency telecommunication dispatchers to augment increased workload requirements and to decrease Dispatch Center overtime expenses.
- Hired a full-time Crime Analyst Manager whose duties include the production of the following reports: Daily Crime Reports; Weekly Crime Reports. This year, Neighborhood-Stat Reports and Business-Stat Reports will be available.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Compstat Meetings: With the assistance of our new Crime Analyst Manager and with the reinstatement of the Compstat Program the department will achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in the deployment of manpower and resources. This will be realized by developing and publishing accurate performance measures with an overall objective to improve employee performance and reduce department-wide overtime costs.
- Completed Patrol Bureau needs assessment and workload study, redistricted patrol division lines and boundaries, and implemented a new citywide Six-Car Patrol Plan that will improve the delivery of police services.
- Outsourced over 200 non-evidentiary firearms storage to Village Vault in Northborough, Massachusetts.
- Transferred all property and evidence case information into a new more easily accessible computer database.
- Automated our property and evidence storage requirements with a new bar coding procedure.
- Implemented new procedures in the Property & Evidence function to maintain compliance with State record retention rules and national accreditation standards. This year the department disposed of 3,022 items in cases sitting dormant in storage areas.
- Automated the disposal process for stored property and evidence. Utilized the department's website ([www.newtonpolice.com](http://www.newtonpolice.com)) to perform a disposal educational campaign for lost and found property items; reorganized storage area floor plans; deployed new storage containers; and improved disposal schedules with the end result of reduced storage problems and increased storage capacity.
- Centralized police incident and traffic crash report functions within the Support Services Bureau. Now available online and in-person requests for reports may be-directed to and handled by one office. This includes all public information requests submitted by the media and general public.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT FY'11 GOALS:

- Achieve national re-accreditation status granted by the Commission on Accreditation for

Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in November 2010.

- Establish Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team (aka Truck Team). The department will enhance roadway safety for motorists and pedestrians throughout the City by implementing a new specialized program of truck inspections. These inspections will likely result in less wear-and-tear and the improved overall infrastructure of major roadways in Newton.
- Deploy Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs). With the deployment of new ALPRs the department will improve the efficiency of the parking enforcement process, which will result in more effective tracking of parking violations, a higher turnover in parking space availability, and a reduction in parking enforcement costs.
- PrintQuest AFIS-APIS System (aka SPEX). The department will enhance and improve our crime solvability rates, reduce the rate of repeat offenders, and decrease the lag time associated with automated fingerprint identification systems through the implementation of an in-house automated fingerprint recognition program.
- Meet New Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Mandates. The department will improve communications and comply with FCC requirements with the replacement of our existing radio communications system by CY'12.

Ald. Lappin asked if Chief Cummings was able to provide his budget numbers to the Executive Department. Chief Cummings answered his payroll is contractual and all other items are level funded. She asked why the budget reflects a reduction in the overtime amount. He answered the overtime account was reduced when he hired two dispatchers and does not anticipate needing additional money for the overtime account. Ald. Lappin asked if he usually requires additional money for vehicle maintenance. Chief Cummings answered all new vehicles purchased come with a bumper to bumper warranty.

Ald. Fuller asked if there are any particular types of crimes which are increasing that is of concern to the department. Chief Cummings answered due to the economy; there has been an increase in car break-ins, house break-ins, bank robberies, cyber crime, bullying, stealing precious metals, statues and signs. She then asked why the total department budget was down approximately 1.1%. Lt. Downing explained the cost savings is approximately \$125,000 due to the current vacancies, benefits and salaries. It is the department's intention in July to roll over \$125,000 into the next fiscal year; the current budget is showing a deficit of \$184,000. The department's budget will be cut approximately \$65,000 in FY11.

Ald. Lennon asked if there are vacancies available and are there enough dispatchers. He expressed his concerns insuring the vehicles are in good condition and if there are enough vehicles. Chief Cummings answered there are currently four vacancies; eight have been hired from the lay-off list. The department has received a grant to fill the two dispatch vacancies. Vehicles are always a top priority; a plan has been put in place turning over front line cars after two years, then moved to a second line for one year then auctioned off. Newer vehicles will be bought at auction with bumper to bumper warranty, which the department will use for five to seven years. By reducing the maintenance cost on older vehicles the department will be able to purchase additional cars. Ald. Lennon then asked if he was satisfied with the Traffic Bureau renovations. Chief Cummings answered some issues remain including water issues on the first floor. The department will be accredited again this year at the main station when he will return

requesting additional appropriations to make the front office and the property and evidence areas safer.

Ald. Danberg and Shapiro commented they were delighted to hear a Youth Officer representative was assigned to the City Anti-Bullying Task Force. Ald. Shapiro asked if there are any available statistics regarding Compstat. Chief Cummings answered the department would have greater potential achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness. Ald. Shapiro then asked if the Police Department has a "wish list". Chief Cummings answered there is always a need to ensure his fleet is safe and would only request equipment and technology perhaps through grants that have been proven to work.

Ald. Harney asked if the Patrolman's Union is still without a contract and if so, when will a decision be made on their contract. Chief Cummings answered they have been without a contract for four years and is in arbitration. He is hopeful it will be resolved in a few weeks.

Ald. Harney asked where the contingency appears in the budget for potential wage increases. Ald. Fuller said the wage reserve budget reflects zero. Is it level funded. Chief Cummings answered the contingency is in wave reserve. Ms. Lemieux clarified that the portion is in the wage reserve account in the Police Department's budget. She said the City is aware of potential retroactive wages and has made appropriate provisions. Ald. Harney then asked what is the current rate of an officer being paid for detail work and when was the last time this was reviewed. Chief Cummings answered \$40.00 per hour for private detail and \$36.00 per hour for a City detail. The last time this was reviewed was approximately four to six years ago.

Ald. Harney asked if there is a plan to reconfigure department employees. Chief Cummings said it is a lengthy process which needs to be resolved including negotiating with the union; it is not in the FY11 budget.

Ald. Lennon asked if the Senior Citizens officer is still multi-tasked by another officer. Chief Cummings said the shared position of domestic violence officer was also the elder affairs officer. Currently there is an officer completing domestic violence and one specifically for senior services.

Chairman Ciccone asked Chief Cummings to review grant, gift and revolving fund expenditure authorizations. Chief Cummings indicated he has requested the following grants:

- \$30,000 for Emergency Medical Dispatch Grant
- \$155,000 E-911 Dispatch Grant
- \$10,000 State/Federal Bullet Proof Vest Reimbursement Grant
- \$30,000 State Traffic Safety Grant
- \$30,000 Sale of Surplus Police Equipment Revolving

Chairman Ciccone asked if the Police Department will consider joining regional tactical task forces similar to Northeast Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLAC) and the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council (MetroLAC) in order to provide immediate response to major emergencies. Chief Cummings answered these organizations will also help the City with

free resources during major events. Another benefit to becoming a NEMLAC or MetroLAC member is the availability of new technologies and access to regional information sharing.

POLICE DEPARTMENT QUESTIONS:

- Ald. Johnson asked what cost is anticipated to be spent on the preventative maintenance for newer vehicles and asked for documentation be provided on this.

Ald. Fuller made the motion to hold this item pending additional information. Committee members agreed 4-0, Ald. Johnson not voting.

Chairman Ciccone invited Chief Cummings to attend the next Public Safety & Transportation Committee meeting on May 5, 2010 to answer questions asked tonight.

At approximately 9:55 pm, Committee members agreed 4-0 (Ald. Johnson not voting) to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman

CHIEF MATTHEW A. CUMMINGS  
NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
FY'11 BUDGET HEARING TALKING POINTS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010

OPENING REMARKS:

Honorable Chairperson of the Committee, Honorable Members of the Board of Alderman, and members of the Executive Department that are present, thank you very much for recognizing me this evening and for allowing me an opportunity to speak on behalf of the Police Department's FY'11 Budget. I want to thank Honorable Mayor Setti Warren, Chief Operating Officer Robert Rooney, Interim Chief Financial Officer Sarah Ecker and members of my own office staff for their valuable assistance in developing this budget. I also want to thank the Police Department's command staff, supervisors, workers, labor association leadership, and our partners in City government, the Newton Public Schools and in local community groups for their assistance in the achievement of our accomplishments in staffing and new processes developed during the current fiscal year, several of which I am about to describe to you in some detail right now.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL & STAFFING:

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- ◆ Re-instituted the full-time Elder Affairs officer position in the Community Services Bureau to enhance services for Newton seniors.
- ◆ Transitioned the Domestic Violence officer position to full-time status.
- ◆ Created a full-time Commander of Special Operations position responsible directly to the Chief of Police for the development, review and evaluation of

procedures and programs necessary to ensure efficient and effective delivery of police services to the citizens of Newton. The Commander will liaison with community groups, elected officials, members of the public, and we be further responsible for internal liaison and coordination among functional elements.

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  - Daily Crime Reports;
  - Weekly Crime Reports;
  - Neighborhood-Stat Reports; and
  - Business-Stat Reports.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT PROCESSES:

- ◆ Compstat Meetings:

With the assistance of our new Crime Analyst Manager and with the reinstitution of the Compstat Program the Newton Police Department will achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in the deployment of manpower and resources. This will be realized by developing and publishing accurate

performance measures with an overall objective to improve employee performance and reduce department-wide overtime costs.

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- ◆ Meet New Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Mandates

The Newton Police Department will improve communications and comply with FCC requirements with the replacement of our existing radio communications system by CY'12.